

HERE TO PUSH IRISH WARES

MRS. T. P. O'CONNOR'S PLAN FOR A SHOP IN NEW YORK.

Incidentally She Tells About the Troubles of the Wife of an M. P.—Thinks English Women Will Have Votes in Five Years—Confession of an Interviewer.

Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, wife of the oldest in point of service of the Irish members of the House of Commons, is over here for a fortnight. The famous "Tay Pay" is among the most popular men of his party and Mrs. Tay Pay is referred to by returning visitors as the best known American woman in London.

Her reputation in this respect does not seem to have suffered by transplanting



"EVERY WOMAN SHOULD SUPPORT HERSELF A YEAR BEFORE MARRIAGE."

At the Hotel Patterson her suite of rooms resembles the double set of a French farce in which people are coming in and going out with such rapidity that it makes the head ache, or the equivalent entrance of the Waldorf-Astoria at tea hour. The electric button at the outer door of the sitting room is pressed continually by eager fingers, and accompanying it is the telephone bell.

Feminine friends rush in and press her to throbbing hearts with ecstatic embraces. One young woman in evening gown at 11 A. M. had dropped in the evening before to have a few moments quiet chat and had discovered so many subjects that must be discussed that she had stayed all night.

Once a name is announced by the patient Buttons and Mrs. O'Connor looks about helplessly at the mural decoration of spring hats with sympathetic faces beamed.

"Do I know her?" she asks.

The many headed decoration makes a noncommittal gesture.

Buttons suggest that she is an intimate friend.

"Of course," says Mrs. O'Connor. "If

I don't remember her name she is sure to be."

The sadness of an expression which is ordinarily mirth provoking is explained in a moment.

"You see," she says, "it isn't a case of merely forgetting the name and remembering the face; that is a sort of half way satisfaction. I forget both, and in consequence my life is a series of tragic episodes."

"Once a woman rushed up to me on the street and we became immediately engaged in a conversation of an intimate nature touching events and people of common interest. I felt she must be some one whom I knew very well or she would not have been so terribly glad to see me or know so much about me, so as we separated I begged her, simply begged her, to come in to tea very soon. She said she would and the next day she came sailing in at the tea hour."

"The other guests drifted away and we were left tête-à-tête and had a most enjoyable time. Mr. O'Connor happened to go through the room once in his usual busy way and I thought I detected an expression of surprise on his face, but before I could really wake up to the knowledge that it was there he had disappeared and my guest had resumed her amusing anecdotes of one and another with which she was regaling me."

"I took the lesson seriously, and shortly after it we attended a dinner given by some political club at one of the fashionable hotels in London. It was quite an affair, and there must have been a great many guests whom I had never met before, but whenever I saw anything that approached an expression of friendliness I beamed in ecstatic fervor. I even put myself to the trouble of gazing about in search of such evidences of previous acquaintance."

"Just before dinner was announced a young man came and stood at the door of the salon, rubbing his glasses and looking about with a shy and bewildered glance. He caught my eye, and determined to leave no doubt in the mind of my husband that I was cordially inclined toward his constituents and their friends. I selected this person as example of widely sentiment. So I rose, rushed, fairly rushed across the room, seized him by the hand and told him how delighted I was that we had met again."

"Like the ancient mariner, I held him with my glittering eye while I talked in my very best manner, utterly ignoring

husband is a prominent figure in the political world. There are people who believe it a rose strewn path. Take my word for it there are thorns and rough places."

"Mr. O'Connor in a moment of marital confidence following some such event as I have related, described to me in most eloquent and convincing language the melancholy of the position of a man in the public eye whose wife did not remember from day to day the names and faces of the people to whom was due at least the slight compliment of that kind."

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and has even given up joking on the subject; but my son has not. Naturally he believes there is still hope of amendment, and I have no doubt he thinks that the sly jests with which he entertains our guests on this subject will have a good effect. That is so like a son. Mine is a dear boy and a clever artist."

"Son and I were walking one day recently along King's Road and I nodded and smiled blithely to a rather peculiar looking person whom we met and who looked as if he knew us."

"Who is that, mother?" he asked.

"That," I responded at once, sure that the name was on the tip of my tongue, "why, that is—er, why, oh, I cannot remember his name this very second, but you must remember him. Why, we meet him every time we go out."

"Oh, yes, I remember him perfectly," answered son. "He keeps a public house down the street a bit, but I didn't know you ranked him among your friends."

"Wasn't that unkind? And I wish you could have heard him laugh, the most irritating laugh. Whenever we meet a specially disagreeable character now son always points him out as one of mother's friends."

"At this point Mrs. O'Connor deprecates her own sense of humor and says she had determined to keep the interview along serious lines, but something had sidetracked her against her will and that now she intends to follow out her original line of thought."

"This refers to her mission to this country, which is concerned with the establishment of a branch shop for the exhibition and sale of Ireland's products, to be conducted under the direction of and in connection with the Irish Industries

Society, with which Mrs. T. P. O'Connor has been connected for many years and of which Lady Cadogan is president.

"In London we have accomplished a tremendous amount of work in this direction," she says. "In New York there should be a larger market for Irish lace than in London."

"The Irish products are not limited by the lace output; that is only one of many. The Irish Industries Association is just as interested and pushes with just as much vigor the knitted work, the embroideries, the manufactures of silk and linen and the homespun."

"We want especially to make popular the poplins, which had a decided vogue here a few years ago but for some reason have died out in favor. Certainly no one can deny the beauty and durability of the real Irish fabric, which is so woven that the surface is altogether pure silk, while firmness is given by the wool in the interior. Such skill and watchfulness are required in the manufacture that the Dublin poplin makers refuse to allow any one who has not served a seven year apprenticeship or who is not the oldest son of a poplin maker to work as a poplin weaver. The beauty of the coloring has been attributed to the popularity of the Dublin water."

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say suffragette," says Mrs. O'Connor, "but I heartily approve of their methods because I do not believe in any other way could the public attention have been focused on the cause. I predict that in five years women will get what they want in this respect, five years at the least. I mean of course the women of England."

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MRS. O'CONNOR MEETING AN ENEMY.

the cause, and Miss Robins is not a rich woman.

"Her example has been followed by many others, and to these gifts are added the contributions of women who have plenty and are interested in the cause. If another reason was needed for my belief it might be found in the saying of some statesman that when two women intrigue monarchies may fall."

"There were not less than 10,000 women who marched in the famous procession of last year from Westminster to Albert Hall, all working, or intriguing as that statesman would have called it, for universal suffrage; and if two can arouse suspicion that their efforts will be rewarded it is no wonder, is it, that the present policy of the English statesman is of close scrutiny and arrested action? He doesn't apparently dare to announce himself inimical, and so he hesitates, and I suppose the man, like the woman, who hesitates is lost."

"My reason for not going to jail is, I suppose, found in the temperamental fact that I am not really a fighter. I am of the council of peace who expect and hope everything will be settled by arbitration; but I am an ardent admirer of all the militant crowd—especially of Christabel Pankhurst, who is the picturesque figure in the demonstration."

"Like the Englishman, I am a lover of nerve and pluck, and besides these qualities she is the possessor of wit and youth and charm. A very significant fact, it seemed to me, was shown at the suffragette ball given not long ago, where she had filled her programme over dozens of times."

"After it was over you'd meet some fine English chaps, about here and there, who would tell you with the air of having done something really remarkable that they got half a dance with Miss Pankhurst at the ball. Let a woman say in jail a few days now

present his conduct to the courts, both civil and criminal."